

Evident amendments

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**ANTI-INTRUSION DEVICE PRIMARILY FOR AN ELECTRONIC
PAYMENT TERMINAL**

The present invention relates to an anti-intrusion device for the protection of housings. It applies in particular to the protection of a housing of an electronic payment terminal or of a housing for entering a confidential code (also known as a "PIN-pad").

An electronic payment terminal comprises a housing in which are provided in particular an information screen, a memory card reader, a keypad on which a customer can enter a confidential code, and processing means associated with the reader and with the keypad so as to perform the verifications and the transaction. The processing means comprise electronic circuits making it possible to carry out sensitive functions, such as the verification the validity of the code entered by the customer.

Certain terminals may be modified in a fraudulent manner so as to disrupt their operation, and for example record the confidential codes entered by the customers or debit an amount greater than that displayed by the information screen. In order to avoid these frauds, provision is made for devices for protecting against intrusion into a housing. These devices make it possible to detect any opening of the housing, the processing means being deactivated in case of opening. For example, French patent application No. 00 03465, filed on 03/17/2000 and published under the number FR 2 806 507, describes an elastomer membrane in which at least one button for detecting opening is molded.

The rench patent application filed on 10/20/2000 and published under the number FR 2 815 733, describes a security device for a keypad.

The invention aims to afford an alternative technical solution to this problem, this solution being economical and easy to implement. The invention has moreover the advantage of being robust and of exhibiting lasting reliability over time by virtue of the use of a spring. The invention also has the advantage that it avoids the detection of untimely openings, especially when the housing is subjected to impacts or vibrations.

For this purpose, the anti-intrusion device according to the invention comprises at least one spring, the spring being arranged in such a way as to be under pressure

